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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	Hon. Douglas E. Arpert
	:	
v.	:	Mag. No. 20-6003 (DEA)
	:	
ERIC BERNING,	:	<b>ORDER FOR A CONTINUANCE</b>

This matter having come before the Court on the joint application of Rachael A. Honig, Acting United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey (by Michelle S. Gasparian, Assistant United States Attorney), and defendant Eric Berning, (by Brian P. Reilly, Esq.), for an order granting a continuance of the proceedings in the above-captioned matter from the date this Order is signed through June 18, 2021 to permit defense counsel the reasonable time necessary for effective preparation in this matter and to allow the parties to discuss the matter and conduct plea negotiations in an effort to resolve the case before grand jury proceedings and trial; and the Court having previously entered Standing Orders 20-02, 20-03, 20-09, 20-12, extensions of Standing Order 20-12, and Standing Order 21-04, continuing this and all other criminal matters in this district until June 1, 2021, in response to the national emergency created by COVID-19; and the defendant being aware that he has the right to have the matter submitted to a grand jury within 30 days of the date of his arrest pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3161(b); and a prior continuance having been entered on August 27, 2020; and the

defendant, through his attorney, having consented to the continuance; and for good and sufficient cause shown,

IT IS THE FINDING OF THIS COURT that this action should be continued for the following reasons:

(1) The parties anticipate exchanging discovery and entering into plea negotiations, which would render any grand jury proceedings and any subsequent trial of this matter unnecessary;

(2) In response to the national emergency created by COVID-19, the Chief Judge of this Court has entered Standing Orders 20-02, 20-03, 20-09, 20-12, extensions of Standing Order 20-12, and Standing Order 21-04, which are incorporated herein by reference;

(3) The failure to grant such a continuance would deny counsel for the defendant or the attorney for the government the reasonable time necessary for effective preparation, taking into account the exercise of due diligence;

(4) The defendant has consented to the aforementioned continuance;

(5) The grant of a continuance will likely conserve judicial resources;  
and

(6) Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3161(h)(7), the ends of justice served by granting the continuance outweigh the best interests of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial.

WHEREFORE, it is on this 8th day of April, 2021;

ORDERED that this action be, and it hereby is, continued from the date this Order is signed through June 18, 2021; and it is further

ORDERED that the period from the date this Order is signed through June 18, 2021 shall be excludable in computing time under the Speedy Trial Act of 1974.



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HON. DOUGLAS E. ARPERT  
United States Magistrate Judge

Form and entry consented to:

*Michelle S. Gasparian*

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Michelle S. Gasparian  
Assistant United States Attorneys

*Brian P. Reilly*

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Brian P. Reilly, Esq.  
Counsel for Defendant, Eric Berning